

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-22 are now in the application. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Claims 21 and 22 have been added.

In item 3 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner has rejected the specification as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. More specifically, the Examiner has stated that claims 1 and 13 were indefinite because the phrase, "Formed by impressing a volume into said thermoplastic layers," was indefinite.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended and the phrase has been removed.

Accordingly, the specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above noted changes to the claims are provided solely for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art.

In item 4 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-20 as being obvious over Gardill (U.S. 5,614,285) in view of Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to define more clearly the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 11, first paragraph of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, a brief review of the invention as claimed is provided. Amended claim 1 and amended claim 13 both call for, *inter alia*, a multilayer composite body for the production of components or performs having the following features:

at least one of said thermoplastic layers forming an outer surface of said multilayer composite body and forming at least one molded functional element on said outer surface.

Therefore, the claimed invention describes that during the production process (i.e. the pressing process) of the composite body, a thermoplastic layer located as the outer surface is deformed as functional elements. Furthermore, as described in claims 21 and 22, these functional elements specifically can be attachment strips, ribs, or surface structures. Consequently, the functional elements will be

formed directly from the material of the outer thermoplastic layer through molding without changing the volume of the thermoplastic layer. This feature is described in originally-filed claim 9 and the specification at page 11, first paragraph.

Clearly, the references do not show a "molded functional element" as recited in claim 1 and 13 of the instant application. Furthermore, the references do not teach or suggest that such a functional element can be a "fixing strip, a rib, and a visually effective surface structure"; see claims 21 and 22.

Accordingly, none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1 or 13. Therefore, claims 1 and 13 are patentable over the art. Moreover, because all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1 or 13, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-20 are solicited. In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, please telephone counsel so that patentable language can be substituted.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$55 in accordance with Section 1.17 for a small entity is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 21, 2002

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made:In the Claims:

Claim 1 (four times amended). A multilayer composite body for the production of components or preforms, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials [, said thermoplastic layers including outer components having an outer component surface, said outer components having been formed by impressing a volume into said thermoplastic layers];

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers;

at least one of said thermoplastic layers forming an outer surface of said multilayer composite body and forming at least one molded functional element on said outer surface.

Claim 13 (four times amended). A motor vehicle component or [perform] preform produced from a multilayer composite, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials [, said thermoplastic layers including outer components having an outer component surface, said outer components having been formed by impressing a volume into said thermoplastic layers];

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers;

at least one of said thermoplastic layers forming an outer surface of said multilayer composite body and forming at least one molded functional element on said outer surface.

Add the Following Claims:

--21. The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said at least one functional element is selected from the group consisting of a fixing strip, a rib, and a visually effective surface structure.--

--22. The multilayer composite body according to claim 13, wherein said at least one functional element is selected from the group consisting of a fixing strip, a rib, and a visually effective surface structure.--